

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating an optical fiber by drawing a preform, the method ~~including~~ comprising:

[[-]] determining variations in ~~the~~ optical or geometric characteristics of the preform departing from ~~its~~ intended design characteristics of the preform prior to heating the preform for drawing the optical fiber, and

[[-]] modifying ~~the~~ a diameter of the optical fiber during drawing as a function of said determined variations to compensate the effect of said variations on ~~the~~ propagation characteristics of the optical fiber.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the preform has a constant outside diameter and the ~~determination~~ step of determining said variations includes measuring the diameter of ~~the~~ a core of the preform.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the diameter of the optical fiber is modified so that ~~the~~ a relative variation in said diameter is in ~~the opposite~~ a direction opposite to the a relative variation in the diameter of the core of the preform.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said geometrical characteristics ~~are geometrical characteristics such as the~~ include a diameter of the preform, the radii of the layers of the preform or ~~the~~ a diameter of ~~the~~ a core of the preform.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said optical characteristics ~~are optical characteristics such as the~~ include indices of ~~the various~~ layers of the preform.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ modifications to the diameter of the optical fiber are less than a predetermined limit value.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the modifications to the diameter of the optical fiber are less than 2 μm .

8. (Currently) The method of claim 1, wherein the modifications to the diameter of the optical fiber are less than +2% of the nominal diameter of the fiber.

9. (Canceled) An optical fiber obtained by the method of claim 1.